

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 2, 21, 24 and 29-30. Please amend Claims 1, 9-10, 19-20, 22-23, 25 and 31-32. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1. (Currently amended) A method for determining the susceptibility of a subject to infection, which method comprises:
 - (i) providing a sample from said subject;
 - (ii) detecting any LL-37 present in said sample;
 - (iii) ~~optionally~~ comparing the level of LL-37 in said sample to a control sample from a normal subject; and
 - (iv) determining the susceptibility of said subject to infection, wherein no LL-37 or a ~~low~~lowered level of LL-37 compared to the level of LL-37 in said control sample indicates that said subject is susceptible to infection.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the infection is a bacterial infection.
4. (Original) A method according to claim 3 wherein said bacterial infection is an *Actinobacillus actinomycetemcomitans* infection.
5. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein said infection is an oral infection.
6. (Original) A method according to claim 5 wherein said oral infection is periodontitis.
7. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein said LL-37 is the proform of LL-37.

8. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein said LL-37 is the mature form of LL-37.
9. (Currently amended) A method of treating an individual to reduce the risk of infection comprising administering to a subject susceptible to infection an amount of LL-37 effective to reduce susceptibility to infection, wherein said individual has a lowered level of LL-37 compared to a normal subject.
10. (Currently amended) A method for determining the susceptibility of an individual to infection and treating the individual to reduce the risk of infection, the method comprising:
 - (i) providing a sample from a subject;
 - (ii) detecting any LL-37 present in said sample;
 - (iii) ~~optionally~~ comparing the level of LL-37 in said sample to a control sample from a normal subject;
 - (iv) determining the susceptibility of said subject to infection, wherein no LL-37 or a ~~low~~lowered level of LL-37 compared to the level of LL-37 in said control sample indicates that said subject is susceptible to infection; and
 - (v) administering to a subject susceptible to infection an amount of an antimicrobial agent effective to reduce susceptibility to infection.
11. (Original) A method according to claim 10 wherein the antimicrobial agent is LL-37.
12. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein said subject is being treated or has been treated using a cytostatic drugs and/or a corticosteriod.
13. (Canceled)
14. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 9 wherein said infection is gingivitis and/or periodontitis.
15. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14 wherein said medicament is formulated as a toothpaste or mouthwash.

16. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 9 wherein the LL-37 is the proform of LL-37.
17. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 9 wherein the LL-37 is a nucleic acid encoding the proform or the mature form of LL-37.
18. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 9 wherein the LL-37 is an analogue of LL-37.
19. (Currently amended) A method for treating infection in a subject having neutropenia, comprising administering to a subject having neutropenia in need thereof, a therapeutically effective amount of LL-37, wherein said subject having neutropenia has a lowered level of LL-37 compared to a normal subject.
20. (Currently amended) A method of diagnosing neutropenia in a subject, which method comprises:
 - (i) providing a sample from said subject;
 - (ii) detecting any LL-37 present in said sample;
 - (iii) ~~optionally~~ comparing the level of LL-37 in said sample to a control sample from a normal subject; and
 - (iv) determining whether said subject has neutropenia, wherein no LL-37 or a ~~low~~lowered level of LL-37 compared to the level of LL-37 in said control sample indicates that said subject has neutropenia.
21. (Canceled)
22. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 20, wherein the neutropenia is morbus Kostmann ~~morbus~~.
23. (Currently amended) A method of determining whether a subject having neutropenia has a type of neutropenia associated with reduced levels of LL-37, which method comprises:
 - (i) providing a sample from said subject;

- (ii) detecting any LL-37 present in said sample;
 - (iii) ~~optionally~~ comparing the level of LL-37 in said sample to a control sample from a normal subject; and
 - (iv) determining whether said subject has a type of neutropenia associated with reduced levels of LL-37, wherein no LL-37 or a ~~low~~lowered level of LL-37 compared to the level of LL-37 in said control sample indicates that said subject has a type of neutropenia associated with reduced levels of LL-37.
24. (Canceled)
25. (Currently amended) A method of treating a subject having neutropenia, which method comprises:
- (i) providing a sample from said subject;
 - (ii) detecting any LL-37 present in said sample;
 - (iii) ~~optionally~~ comparing the level of LL-37 in said sample to a control sample from a normal subject;
 - (iv) determining whether said subject has neutropenia, wherein no LL-37 or a ~~low~~lowered level of LL-37 compared to the level of LL-37 in the control sample indicates that said subject has neutropenia; and
 - (v) administering a therapeutically effective amount of an agent suitable for the treatment of neutropenia to a subject having neutropenia.
26. (Original) A method according to claim 25 wherein said agent is LL-37.
27. (Original) A method of treating a subject having neutropenia, which method comprises administering to a subject in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of LL-37.
- 28-30. (Canceled)
31. (Currently amended) A method for treating infection in a subject receiving or who has received a cytostatic drug, corticosteroid or growth factor, comprising administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of LL-37, wherein said subject has a lowered level of LL-37 in a normal subject.

32. (Currently amended) A ~~product~~method according to claim ~~29~~31 wherein the growth factor is G-CSF or GM-CSF.

Amendments to the Drawings

Replace Figure 2, page 2/3 with new Figure 2, page 2/3. The term “FLUORECENCE” has been corrected to “FLUORESCENCE” in Figure 2.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet